

North Chicago VA News



VA Great Lakes
Health Care System
VISN 12

North Chicago
VA Medical Center
3001 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, Illinois 60064

August 2005

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER PICNIC



The Annual Employee/Volunteer Picnic was held on Thursday, July 14, 2005. The weather was a gorgeous, sunny, 84 degrees and everyone really enjoyed the fabulous sounds of the D.J. from

a great atmosphere, a good time was had by all. We would like to thank all who helped with the setup, serving, and especially the grilling of the hotdogs and brats.

“Memory Makers”. One of the highlights was the “Barefoot Hawaiian” dancers sharing their dancing skills and teaching our staff how to shake what their mama gave them. With talented entertainment, great food, and

Special thanks to the Service Unit Crew, the electricians, and most especially to Jill and the Canteen Service for the food.



Learning a Hawaiian dance is not as easy as it looks!

“SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW”

Our own Dorothy Waters was featured on ABC Channel 7's on Monday, August 8th at 5 PM. “Somebody You Should Know”. Well-known reporter Harry Porterfield came to interview our star volunteer and he was very impressed by her. Dorothy is 91 years young and she has been a volunteer here for 52 years with over 52,500 hours. Dorothy won the George H. Seal Memorial Award presented at the 1996 DAV National Convention by former President Bill Clinton.

Dorothy's accomplishments and contributions to our medical center

testify to a special individual who brings quality and integrity to the meaning of volunteer service. She works three days a week at the Information Desk as a front door greeter and has a welcoming smile for everyone. Arriving each morning, Dorothy prepares the coffee and refreshments for our outpatients coming in for clinic or rehab appointments. She is always eager to provide veteran patients with wheelchairs and motorized carts and answer their questions or give them directions. Her cheerful nature starts everyone's day on a happy note and a

wish for a good day. During Dorothy's volunteer career, she has worked in Chaplain Service, Voluntary Service and the Director's Office and she is a member of the ALA, the VFW Aux. and the DAV Aux.

Dorothy is an excellent role model for other volunteers, VAVS Representatives and even staff members. Dorothy is completely dedicated and our medical center is grateful for her loyalty and commitment. We are very proud of Dorothy and she is definitely somebody you should know!

North Chicago News

North Chicago News is published for staff and volunteers of the North Chicago VA Medical Center. Submissions can be sent to douglas.shouse@med.va.gov
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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

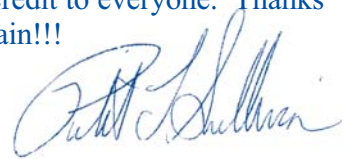
On Friday, June 24, 2005, we had an unexpected guest here at the Medical Center. Mr. Kenneth Peterson from the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO) presented to conduct a random unannounced survey of the Hospital. Using the new survey process from JCAHO, Mr. Peterson performed four "Patient Tracers". The concept of the tracers is to select patients of all statuses (inpatient, outpatient, same day surgery) and literally trace the care and services provided to each patient. This can be done by reviewing the medical record and visiting each of the areas that care was given.

Mr. Peterson's tracers led him through the ICU, AEU, 133-2B, the Operating Room, Pharmacy, Primary Care and the Specialty Clinics. He spent 5 hours asking staff questions, reviewing medical records, observing patient care in progress and even talking to many patients about their care. All the while he was accessing patient care he was inspecting safety practices as well as infection control techniques.

During the exit briefing that afternoon, Mr. Peterson had many positive things to say about the staff and the care that is being provided. The patient tracer is a new process, and coupled with no advanced notice that he(JCAHO) was coming on

board, he was impressed with how the staff was in a "continuous readiness" state. His report contained no recommendations for improvement.

I want to personally thank all the staff that was involved in this unannounced survey. This is a true testimonial to everyone for the excellent job that is done on a daily basis to assure our patients are provided the best possible care. To have an unannounced survey by JCAHO with no recommendations is a credit to everyone. Thanks again!!!



NEW CHIEF, CARDIOLOGY SECTION



In March 2005, Rohit R. Arora, M.D. joined the North Chicago VAMC staff as the Chief of the Cardiology Section. He also is appointed as Professor of Medicine and Professor of Pharmacology at the Chicago Medical School, Rosalind Franklin University, and as Associate Chairman of Research in the Department of Medicine. Prior to his appointment here, Dr. Arora was the Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, New Jersey. He has held prestigious positions at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center/Columbia University in New York, New York and the Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York. Dr. Arora is a member of many professional organizations and

societies; to name but a few: American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association/Council on Geriatric Cardiology and Counsel on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology, American College of Chest Physicians, Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention, and International Who's Who of Professionals. Research interests of Dr. Arora include: thrombosis, refractory angina, lipids, vascular biology of endothelium, and preventive cardiology. He has co-authored more than two hundred papers and abstracts, and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. The professional and personal accomplishments of Dr. Arora include pioneering a device for angina chest pains (EECP) and caring for his patients. Water sports are activities he enjoys in his spare time. Dr. Arora brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in his professional field. It is indeed a pleasure to welcome Dr. Arora to our staff.

Nursing Assistants Receive Recognition and Promotion

Congratulations to the nursing assistants who participated in GS 5 Training during the week of June 20-23, 2005. Training in the following areas was offered: Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning, Catheterization, Prevention of Pressure Ulcers, Care of the Diabetic Patient, Restorative Nursing Overview, PMDB: Crisis Team Training, Death Improvement, Pain Management, Oxygen Administration, Group Process, Assessment of Patients Using Art Therapy, Work Ethics, and Restraint Use.



Shown from left to right: 1) Ethel S. Byas, 2) Shirley A. Matthews, 3) Marvin Carter, 4) Gerald E. Banks, 5) Desiree A. Lewis, 6) Michael D. Wheeler, 7) Damon D. Mason, 8) Raymond S. Benson, 9) Deborah L. Davis, 10) Davis Bullock Jr., 11) Stephanie A. Tanner, and 12) Maribeth Hilo, RN (Clinical Instructor for Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning/Catheterization). Not Shown: Adrianna L. Williams and Bea E. Foster. Numerous interdisciplinary personnel taught classes for the GS 5 trainees. They deserve an honorable mention as well: Julie Peterson, RN; Janine Stoll, RN; Christine Thoennissen, RN; Joyce Wadlington, RNC; Alfreda Rhodes-King, RN; John Bair, Ph.D.; and Harlan Snowden.

PEDIATRIC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (PALS)

On June 27th and 28th, six staff members from NCVAMC traveled to Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago for an intensive two day course in Pediatric Advanced Life Support. In June 2006, NCVAMC will begin to admit children to its inpatient ward and expects to see about 4000 annual pediatric emergency medicine cases. These six staff members are the vanguard of a new corps of healthcare team members at NCVAMC that will have special training to handle pediatric emergencies.

The Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) course is designed to provide a core knowledge in pediatric emergency medicine for health care providers who care for children in emergency settings. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) focuses on the resuscitation of children with respiratory arrest, cardiac arrest, and/or dysrhythmia. PALS begins with the foundation of explaining respiratory failure and

shock, and then moves on to cover the treatment of these entities.

PALS is a 16 hour didactive course for Pediatricians, house staff, emergency physicians, family physicians, nurses, paramedical personnel, respiratory therapists, and other healthcare providers who are responsible for the well-being of infants and children

The goal of the PALS course is to provide the learner with: (1) information needed to recognize infants and children at risk for cardiopulmonary arrest; (2) information and strategies needed to prevent cardiopulmonary arrest in infants and children; and (3) the cognitive and psychomotor skills needed to resuscitate and stabilize infants and children in respiratory failure, shock, or cardiopulmonary arrest.

Core content modules contain material that is essential for the resuscitation of ill or injured

children. Supplemental modules are targeted to meet the needs of specific groups of targeted healthcare providers. Supplemental module topics include children with special healthcare needs, toxicology, the newly born, trauma and spinal immobilization, coping with death, procedural sedation, and rapid sequence intubation.

The six staff members that are now credentialed PALS providers include one physician, Mark Olszyk, MD, chief of emergency medicine, and five nurses: Urbanita Casis, RN (ED), Jae Jung, RN (ICU), Christine Mauleon, RN (ICU/ ED), Virginia Peer, RN (Education), and Maribeth Hogan, RN (Medicine).

In December, these staff members will teach NCVAMC's own PALS training course. This will break new ground at our medical center, and may be a unique achievement in the VHA.

LIFESOURCE BLOOD DRIVE

The North Chicago VA hosted a blood drive on June 28, 2005 which was conducted by LifeSource. LifeSource, based in Glenview, is a supplier of blood and blood components to area hospitals. The donation process takes approximately 1 hour. Donors are screened for eligibility and then, if eligible, are seated in a comfortable chair and one unit of blood is drawn from their arm. Afterwards, the donor is given juice and other refreshments while resting for about 15 minutes. Each unit of donated

blood can be divided into three parts therefore helping three patients. Summertime is known for critically low supplies of blood so any blood donations from healthy people are very important and appreciated. Without donors, some procedures may have to be postponed because of lack of blood. Mr. Patrick Sullivan has approved one hour of authorized absence for all employees who donate a unit of blood.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE RECEIVES RECOGNITION

The Loyola University, Carthage Campus held its annual award luncheon on June 2. The North Chicago VAMC Social Workers who participate as Field Instructors, Preceptors and Administrators were recognized for providing outstanding field instruction in the clinical training of Loyola Social Work graduate students. Congratulations to our staff!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Kathleen Ladewig, Chief of SPD, holds the collateral assignment of Co-chairperson of the medical center's People with Disabilities Awareness Committee. One function of the People with Disabilities Awareness Committee is to develop and maintain contacts, as well as partner with community organizations that serve this special group of individuals. The Special Olympics of Southeastern Wisconsin were held Saturday, July 9, 2005 at the Pioneer Middle School in Delevan, Wisconsin. Volunteers were needed

to assist the participants with the games of tennis and bocce ball. Ms. Ladewig volunteered and was assigned to be a line judge for the tennis matches. The participants had different skill levels and disabilities. Most of the tennis players had coaches to teach them the game and many practice regularly. Kathy's job as a line coach was to monitor the courts to determine if the balls were in/out and assist the players with location for serves and foot placement. All of the players were so excited and upbeat, even if they

lost the match. Family members and friends would cheer from the sidelines. Prior to the games beginning, the opening ceremonies were held - complete with torch. Even the hot temperatures on Saturday did not dampen anyone's spirit. Kathy's husband also volunteered, and driving home, both agreed it was a memorable day and will volunteer for the next event. Thank you, Kathy, for representing this medical center at this extraordinary event!



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2ND ANNUAL CAR SHOW

The North Chicago VA Medical Center held the 2nd Annual Car Show for veterans on Saturday, July 16th and it was again a smash hit! This year's show featured 54 vehicles spanning once again 9 decades of rides, from 18 manufacturers, from 5 countries around the world.

Two employees brought in cars for the show. Mr. Clifford Turuc from Facilities Support brought his 1969 Dodge Dart and Ms. Haley McLaughlin of Patient Services, who coordinated the car show, brought a 1984 Ferrari 308. Mr. David Warstler with the SEDOL Program brought his 1987 Pontiac Formula Firebird. Mary Lange-Alberts brought her 2002 Harley Davidson "Trike".

Our oldest entry was the 1921 Stutz Fire Engine. Vehicles ranged all the way through automotive history to the new millennium vehicles like the 2000 Dodge Viper RT-10, a 2002 Ferrari 575M Maranello, a 2003 Harley Davidson "Trike" and a 2004 Chevy Monte Carlo SS "Intimidator".

All the vehicles were stunning, and mixed together blended the various years and styles. Veterans were able to look at a 1936 Ford, take a few steps and see a 66 GT-40. Take a few more steps to look at a 56 Chevy Bel-Air, take 3 more steps to look at a 29 MB Gazelle and a few more steps would bring up a 52 MG TD Dutchess! Another section



would show a 74 Lamborghini Urraco, a 67 Shelby Cobra next to a 26 Model T Panel Truck, followed by a 59 Ford Edsel, which was followed by a 67 Ford Fairlane! The 75 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow seemed to be guarded by 7 Ferrari's!

The wonderful view of the cars was only topped by the smiles and laughter of many generations and backgrounds of the veterans, patients, employees and drivers of the cars. Many veterans helped out by pushing our veterans from the nursing home, along with volunteers from the Navy Chief Petty Officer Selects and the NorthEastern Federation of Labor from Chicago.

Refreshments were provided to everyone throughout the day, with free hot dogs as an addition this

year as well as a DJ playing the "Oldies". The Medical Center Director, Mr. Patrick Sullivan, presented two trophies. The Patients' Choice Award was presented to Mr. Brad

Buell from Libertyville IL., who was the owner of a STUNNING 1954 Buick Skylark! The Director's Choice Award was presented to Mr. Lowell Charon from Kenosha, WI. who is the owner of a beautiful gold Plymouth Prowler.

The day officially ended with the Parade for Veterans. As the drivers turned the keys and the engines roared to life, Mr. Sullivan climbed up into the 1921 Fire Engine and did a great job of being the Grand Marshal of the Veteran's Parade, revving up the siren as he was leading the way! Mary T. Roseborough, Associate Director of Patient/Nursing Services followed waving her American Flag in a gorgeous red 1978 Ferrari Daytona Spyder convertible as Marianne Semrad, Associate Director, cheered the drivers on and thanked them as they roared off. Many veterans were outside for the parade, each waving a flag and cheering as the cars went by. To see our nation's heroes excited and taking a walk down memory lane, warmed all the drivers' hearts, and every driver stated that they will absolutely be back next year for the 3rd Annual Car show for the Veterans. Thank you, Haley, for making this wonderful memory for our veterans!

